

The

Call Letter

December 2021

Volume 47 #12

*'Tis the season for **Christmas** Carols, Pipe
Organs (radios) and the **Christmas** Party.*

CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 11



Wurlitzer Radio "Minster" circa 1930 (front view)

See rear view on page 11

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, and \$20 if only email newsletters are requested. Dues are due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter is a monthly publication (since 1974) of the society and supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Routine society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM. Society functions include technical instruction, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales, announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.



Charter member Jim Mason. A bequest from his estate has helped support the Society and the Call Letter since 1999.

2021 Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009)

Vice President Franklin Ouchida

Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489)

Recording Sec'y Liles Garcia (503 649-9288)

Board member Mike McCrow (503)730-4639

patkagi@yahoo.com

crazykeychains@gmail.com

edtomp@gmail.com

landn2@frontier.com

soundmikey14@gmail.com

Key Volunteers

Librarian Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446

Historian/Archivist Dan Howard

Photographer Sonny Clutter

flat4pdx@gmail.com

nvrsdan@gmail.com

Radiololaguy@outlook.com

Radio Repair Instruction

If you would like to learn radio repair, or have personal tutoring as you learn, contact one of these folks:

Jan and Glenn Anderson

Blake Dietze

Ed Tompkins

425 750 7600 Longview

360 944-7172 Vancouver

360 635-2489 Vancouver

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Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com

At LAST The Perfect Tube

URECO UV-199 tube box
Tube brands starting with U
are not common. Through the
generosity of Sonny Clutter,
Dick Howard showed the
carton for a UV-199 made by
"URECO" (United Radio &
Electric Corporation) in
Newark



Happy Holidays

Celebrate the ***reason for the season*** -

"Wise men still follow HIS star"

The 2021 Christmas Banquet

No Pot Luck this year. Arlene's Cuisine will do all the cooking. The club will provide beverages. You're welcome to bring desserts or a favorite side dish (optional).

Be part of the gift exchange. Bring one - Get one. Bring a nice gift that you'd like to receive. The gift need not be new. The drawing will happen throughout the event (by random number).

Christmas Gift Exchange-

Here's how it works

1. Everyone who brings a gift, gets a gift
2. Gift Wrap something "you would like to get." Bring it along.
3. Drop off the gift get a ticket with an exchange number
4. The anonymous gifts will be given to the final recipient by drawing the EXCHANGE ticket at random.
5. All gifting is final – Open it and show it off- !

Gift Exchange Rules:

- a. This is **not** a *White Elephant* gift
- b. This is something you'd like to receive
- c. The gift needs to be "somewhat radio related"
- d. If you & your spouse each bring a gift, each will receive one
- e. The perceived value of the gift will be between \$10 and \$25
- f. Gifts need not be new – (something from your collection?)
- g. Gifts are wrapped anonymously (no card – nothing showing)
- h. The gift exchange drawing is at the discretion of the MC
- i. If you received "your own gift" another gift will be drawn for you and your gift will return to the pool
- j. This gift exchange is separate from the club sponsored Door Prize drawings, or other contest awards, gifts, or prizes.

We hope to see you there-

Dick Karman, Blake Dietz & Dave Pidwerbecki

President's Message

By Pat Kagi, President

Happy Holidays everyone! I hope that everyone will have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I'm especially looking forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas party.

For the Holiday Season this year, I am asking everyone to fill out a wish list of items they are looking for. Even though you may have sent out the request before, the plan is to send out your wish list to other clubs and societies in hopes they might have that one special part that you need. In turn, the other members will send in their wish lists as well. In the end, we hope that someone's Christmas will be that more special.

Don't forget to join those who have signed up for the November radio restoration project! You can start in December, or even January. The emphasis is for those who have not yet attempted a restoration. For those new to the restoration art, we encourage them to ask for any assistance whether it be technical or material in nature. Established members will respond to requests and will help connect restorers with members who have tubes, capacitors, resistors, knobs, parts, and expertise available.

Join the fun! Pat

Meeting Notes

From Franklin Ouchida

November meeting had 32 members in attendance in person 5 members on line and 9 guests

There will be no featured radios or tube of the month for December. Come and enjoy the Christmas Party!

Members interested in the 1st Saturday training (in addition to regular meetings) should contact the Vice President.

Share your latest project or skill! Sign up to do a Tech Talk. in person or on Zoom. Email me at crazykeychains@gmail.com

As a reminder, the Zoom method of interaction is becoming popular. NVRs Zoom night is every Wednesday at 7, and the PSARA Zoom gatherings are every Sunday morning at 11. Monitor emails for reminders to connect. All are welcome.

Meeting Minutes

President Pat Kagi called the November 2021 meeting of the NWVRS to order at 9:30 AM. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Pat recognized all veterans and asked them to stand. Member Stephen Kulyik in Bend recently passed away. Our group now has a working Jackson Tube Tester for members to use.

The following people were nominated for offices: President-Pat Kagi; Vice-Pres-Franklin Ouchida; Treasurer-Ed Tompkins; Recording Secretary-pending.

Blake Dietze, Sonny Clutter, and Mike McCrow volunteered to help members repair radios. Dave Pidwerbecki explained Christmas Party arrangements. Our main meal will be catered. Everybody needs to RSVP for the meal by Dec 2.

The Grange needs some carpentry help. Please contact Pat if you are interested. Franklin is looking for ideas for some activities at the Grange- We can rent it for the first Saturday of the month if we get our request in before December. Ideas noted.

Blake Dietze and Mike McCrow gave a Tech Talk about repairing radios. Call Letter Editor, Dick Karman, said he is open for all input.

Our Monthly Feature was "Radios and Advertising starting with a "U". Dick Howard showed a "University" crystal set (see photo). Dan Howard showed gas station premiums from Union 76. The "Tube Of The Month " was tube manufacturers whose name began with a " U ". Mike McCrow did the tube presentation. "Tube Of The Month " for January are tubes that have a " V " in their name or type number.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by Liles Garcia,
November 13, 2021



History- Happy Birthday KEX



Image courtesy of PDXhistory.com

On Christmas day in 1926, KEX came on the air in Portland. It had been broadcasting in test mode since December 23. Today, 95 years later it is still a beacon in the Northwest. It moved through several frequency changes, finally arriving at 1190. Its history stands as one the oldest in the Northwest. From 50 years ago we might remember names like Barney Keep, Eric Norberg, Bob Swanson, Jimmy Hollister, Victor Ives, newsman Jim Howe, announcer Darrel Aune and traffic reporter (pilot) Dennis Norton.

Long before these names were popular, back on March 29, 1941, the station made its final move on the dial to 1190 kHz (dictated by the North American Regional Broadcasting Agreement). Each frequency change (there were four in all) demanded a change in antenna alignment. Historian Art Redman researches a piece of its history in this story about one of the major changes in the KEX antenna.

Dr. Harold Brown Returns [1939]

By Art Redman

From *The Oregonian* April 29, 1939

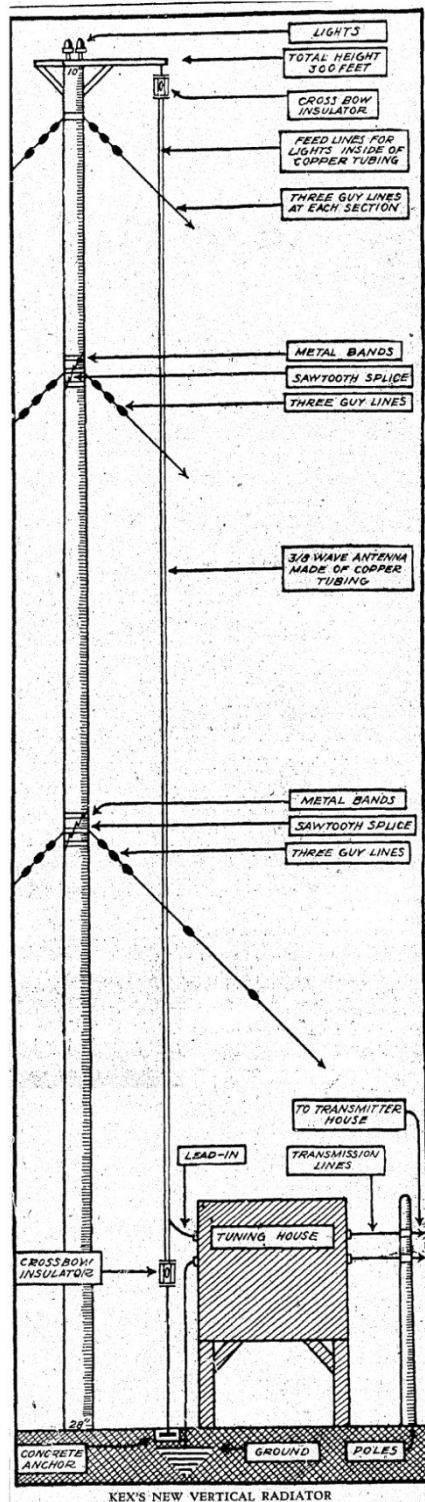
George Harold Brown worked for the RCA Radiation Research Division and Wave Propagation Department starting in 1933 after gaining his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Brown's first job for RCA was for station KGW, Portland. This is where, during 1933, he designed a directional antenna which he never completed (which was fortunate.) According to Dr. Brown, (in 1934) "so much has been learned since those early days."

In 1934, (When KGW and KEX were both owned by the Oregonian and shared the same building) he designed the KEX antenna consisting of a wood mast supporting a copper tube, towering 312 feet. A solid copper rod was not needed because of the skin effect.

The antenna resonance was designed by Dr. Brown at three/eights wavelength of 1180 kHz (94.6 meters) instead of the usual one quarter wavelength (63.1 meters) to reduce sky wave radiations and their reflections back from the Kennelly-Heaviside layer thereby reducing interference with ground waves during the day.

Brown returned to Portland December 9, 1939, addressing the local IRE section on *"Vestigial Side Band Filters for Use in Television Transmitters;"* a device used by the NBC transmitter WGY atop the Empire State Building. [Learn about vestigial Side Band Filters at the footnote link]

Directional antennas are important today, Brown told William Moyes, the *"Behind the Mike"* columnist of the *Oregonian* (as he smoked his 25 cent cigar at the old Portland Hotel now the site of Pioneer Courthouse Square). "The idea of them is to minimize the signal



KEX'S NEW VERTICAL RADIATOR

in certain directions, to prevent interference with other stations sharing the same channel. They come in two, three, and four element arrays”. The word “elements” to radio engineers means towers. “You’ve got to know precisely where to plant them”.

He designed the KOMO-KJR filter system whereby two radio stations 50 kHz apart can transmit from the same antenna. It was thought in 1939 by KEX executives that Brown’s designs will stop any inference with stations located in Indiana if and whenever the power output of KEX is increased from then power output of 5,000 to 50,000 watts by using a turnstile style antenna. [However, KEX did not increase its power output from 5,000 to 50,000 watts until April 1948.]

Dr. Brown is number 100 in Orrin Dunlap’s book *100 men of Radio*. In his lifetime Brown held over 80 patents. A notable work was the using of microwaves (radio waves) to heat materials during manufacturing.

Bibliography:

“B. Mike Column”, *The Oregonian*, December 12, 1939, page 9.

Dunlap, Orrin E. Jr. *Radio’s 100 men of Science*: Harper & Brothers, New York, 1944, pages 284, 285. Dr. Brown at #100 is the last one listed.

“KEX’s New Vertical Radiator,” *The Oregonian* April 29, 1934, page 44.

Want to know more?

What is a “turnstile” antenna

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turnstile_antenna

What is Vestigial sideband Modulation

<https://www.tutorialspoint.com/what-is-vestigial-side-band-modulation-why-is-it-used>

Radio Vision *mystery set*

Click on the link below to
read about this mystery set.



https://www.radiolaguy.com/Showcase/RadiolaguyMonthlyFeature_Nov21.htm

Amateur Radio in History-

The Christmas Day flood of 1964.

Fifty-seven years ago there was a state-wide nightmare. In December, 1964 Ham operators were on hand to provide critical logistics and coordination for the Christmas Day flood relief.

Inches of snow fell on Oregon on Dec 17-19, 1964. Directly following that, the National Weather Service measured rainfalls between 10 and 20 inches in Western Oregon. There were 5 to 15 inches recorded even east of the mountains. The snow melted and the rains came, but nothing was soaking into the frozen ground.

The flood waters in the Columbia River Gorge washed out the Biggs Bridge and the John Day Bridge closing what is now Interstate 84. Flooding on the mountain washed out sections of Highway 26 as well as the Zig Zag bridge. A mud slide moved the entire gorge town of Rufus into the railroad tracks, also closing parts of I-84. Mud slides in Portland washed out Terrwilliger Blvd and West Burnside street, to name only a few. The rising Willamette River damaged the East side interchanges of the new nearly completed I-5 urban corridor. (Marquam bridge wasn't yet built.)

Radio stations in coast communities were the only 'warning system.' But many commercial radio stations were under water. Radio broadcasters in the Willamette valley were sounding the alarm. Amateur radio operators were the voices that were guiding search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters and assisting dozens of evacuations from rural homes and population "islands" which were rapidly losing ground to the torrential flood waters.

The American Radio Relay League has been organized since 1914 and has had a notable presence in time of disaster throughout Oregon and Pacific Northwest. If you're an amateur operator, thanks for your service and your readiness. Local Hams were noticeable during the 1948 Vanport flood. They had mobilized during the Columbus Day storm. They were on the move again, in 1964. They seldom get the acknowledgement they deserve.

Thank you to the Hams from the NW Vintage Radio Society.

The Organ Pipe Radios

By Dan Howard

Whether it's a love for good music, an association with churches or theaters, or an insatiable interest in technology, a number of our members have a cross-over interest in pipe organs. Our first president, Harley Perkins enjoyed tracker organs, and looked for them as he traveled from coast to coast. One of our longest standing officers, Ed Charman, was a pipe organist and had a pipe organ in his home. Member Mark Reed, owned a three story house in Ladd's Addition to house a three story pipe organ, removing floors between the basement and the attic to accommodate the longest pipes. George Kirkwood still has an organ in his living room, a souvenir of his long career at Rodgers Organ.

Howard Vollum, one of the founding partners of Tektronics was an organ enthusiast. He is shown here at the organ console in his home. (Courtesy of the TEK publication "Photo of the month")

I grew up watching Dad assemble a pipe organ in our basement. I know that there are many others besides who like radios and organs.

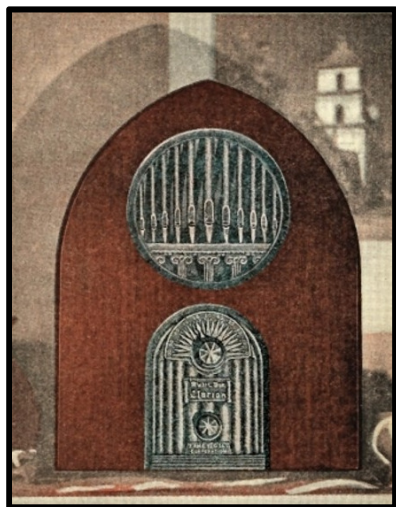
I saw my first "Organ Pipe" radio on a visit to Jerry Talbott's house many years ago. It was a Zaney Gill cathedral. Obviously, the cathedral styling was a tribute to a church window, but the designers had gone much further, decorating the front of the radio with simulated organ pipes. Much later I came to realize that making Organ Pipe radios was a brief fad of the early 1930's and that a few other examples had been manufactured. Following is a photo survey of the Organ Pipe radios that I know of. We've asked members to hunt for photos too. These were gleaned from other clubs, organ/radio publications and Museums. Look closely – every set is decorated with simulated organ pipes – and some even have stained glass windows. If you have other examples to add, please send them my way.





Philco 37-610 (1937)
in custom cabinet
(contemporary)

Zaney-Gill Clarion Music Box
(version 1) duralium case,
circa 1930



Zaney-Gill "Clarion
Music Box" version 2
circa 1930 (12" x 18" x 7")
mahogany cabinet
Image from Sonny Clutter



Grigsby-Grunow

“Majestic”

Model 300A

“Cathedral”

(note the organ pipes
and stained Glass
window look.)

circa 1932



Wurlitzer Minster chassis



Grigsby-Grunow “Majestic” Model

363 “Abbeywood” circa 1932

References:

Belanger, Brian “The Majestic 300A,” Radio Age August, 2019 pg. 7.

“Majestic advertisement,” Pittsburgh Press Sept 29, 1932.

“Zaney-Gill advertisement,” Radio News July, 1930.

“Zaney-Gill Announces Music Box Clarion,” Radio Doings Feb 22, 1930 pg. 18.

November Feature-

Scott Field - Veterans' Day display -

In keeping with this month's "U" theme, and the remembrance of Veteran's Day, a pair of Utah-brand military headphones were the centerpiece of Dan Howard's



Scott Field display. Rounding out the display were photos and memorabilia and uniforms from Scott Field. (above)

Union 76 display - Dan Howard's display of novelty and promotional radios from Union 76 stations tied in to this month's "U" display theme. Joining the bright orange radios antenna balls were radios from Union 76's Midwest subsidiary "Pure Oil."



University Apparatus Co - Dick Howard displayed a seldom-seen crystal set from the University Apparatus Company of Berkeley, CA. The company mainly produced devices for teaching physics at the high school and college level. [See the photo at the bottom of page 4](#)

Swap Shop

WANTED:

Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance.
Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net

I need of a meter lens for a Heathkit IM-32 VTVM. Parts, or meter.
Mike McCrow 503-7304639

2 knobs for a Westinghouse H126 "Refrigerator Radio" in brown.
Hunting for a Toshiba 7TP30 in black. (Cosmetically clean)
Searching for Packard Bell 5R1 any Parts, Part Sets and/ Or
Displayable Sets in Pink, Yellow and Green.
Looking for a Arborcone Speaker for my Arborphone 26
Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com 971-407-8108

A speaker for a Zaney Gill "Music Box Clarion". The original was an
8" Magnavox brand, electrodynamic (field coil) type with a voice coil.
The Magnavox speaker was used in many radios in early 30s'
Sonny Clutter Radiolaguy@outlook.com.

FOR SALE:

Military radios: 2 ea. R392 receivers, 2 ea. R662 transceivers, 1 ea.
AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier. Complete but untested and came
from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals
too. \$1200 for everything. Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and
Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on. No further
troubleshooting has been done. - \$350
Bill Holeman bpasok@live.com

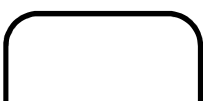
Edison Chalet diamond disc wind up phonograph. Works well and is
fairly uncommon. \$125.00 Victor Victrola Model IX spring driven
phonograph works well & in nice shape. \$150.00 (Pics available).
Contact Pat at patkagi@yahoo.com

Remember- Dues are Due

For the minimal fee of \$25 you can renew your membership for
another year. If you only wish email newsletters (not snail mail)
you can save more by renewing for \$20 a year and get your
newsletter in your email. Mail dues to the post office box.



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